

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 071641
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/ARP:JPLYLE

APPROVED BY:NEA:EGABINGTON, JR.

NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM

S/S:LMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 071641

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING MANAMA 717 SENT ACTION SECSTATE MAR 29; REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T MANAMA 717

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MORG, BA

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 071641

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE: CABINET APPROVES NEW FORMAT

REF : STATE 67623

1. FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMED ME MARCH 29 THAT CABINET
APPROVED NEW FORMAT CONCEPT DURING MARCH 27 MEETING. FOREIGN
MINISTER AND I SCHEDULED MEET AGAIN MARCH 31. HE HAS AGREED

TO CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE QUOTED REFTEL. REALIZE PRESSURES
IN DEPT. BUT ANSWERS TO ANY OF FONMIN'S QUESTIONS REPORTED
MANAMA 676 WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

2. IN MARCH 31 MEETING WITH FONMIN MY APPROACH WILL CONTINUE
TO BE TO PRESERVE MAXIMUM PORT TIME AND SHORE FACILITIES.
PENDING 175 AUTHORITY, I WILL OF COURSE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT,
ON USG SIDE AT LEAST, TALKS STILL INFORMAL. NOW THAT GOB HAS
GIVEN FORMAL APPROVAL, AND GIVEN PRESSING NEED FOR MIDEASTFOR
TO HAVE DETAILS SETTLED, I WOULD HOPE WE COULD MOVE TO FORMAL
TALKS VERY SOON.

3. THE QUID PRO QUO SHOE HAS YET TO DROP IN THESE TALKS AND
WHEN IT DOES I WOULD LIKE TO BE ARMED WITH AT LEAST A MINIMAL
RESPONSE. USG'S WORLD-WIDE REVIEW OF ARMS SALES POLICY PROVIDES
AMPLE GENERAL REPLY TO ANY GOB QUESTION ABOUT WHAT ARMS WE
MIGHT AGREE TO SELL. BUT QUESTION ABOUT WHAT A REASONABLE BDF
POSTURE OUGHT TO BE, WHICH WE UNDERTOOK TO ANSWER, WILL BE MORE
DIFFICULT TO HANDLE. GOB UNDERSTANDS THAT DEFENSE SURVEY
REPORT IS NOT OFFER TO SELL AND WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO
DELIVER REPORT SOON. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING STATUS OF DEFENSE
SURVEY REPORT.

4. DEPT. PLEASE REPEAT TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY ADDRESSEES.
CLUVERIUS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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